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THE OFFICIAL MATCH DAY MAGAZINE OF THE SOUTH MELBOURNE SOCCER CLUB

match program



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ROUND I
SOUTH MELBOURNE SOCCER CLUB
VS
GIPPSLAND FALCONS
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1998



PARTHENON MARBLE



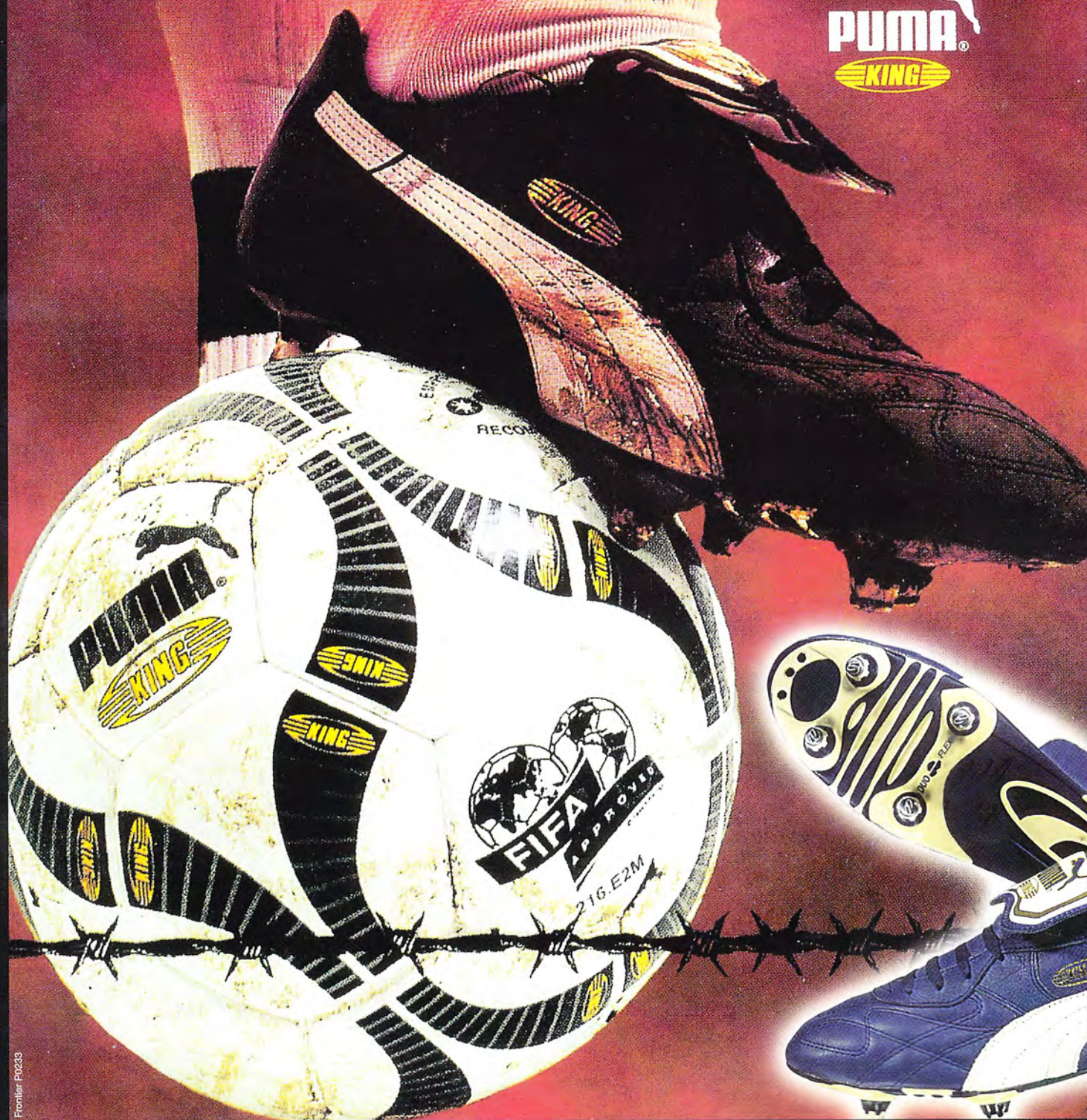
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MANAGER/COACH

Ange Postecoglou

CAPTAIN

Paul Trimboli

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Tradescene / Bauhaus Studio of Design

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is with great excitement that the South Melbourne Soccer Club enters the 1998/99 Ericsson Cup season, where today we proudly unveil our 1997/98 championship flag. The Board of Directors, Ange Postecoglou and the team have been working extremely hard during the off-season with the focus on back-to-back championships.

I would like to officially welcome Mr Angelo Bouzis of Vivianes Collection as our new major sponsor for the next two years where we look forward to an excellent and exciting working relationship. We thank Mr Bouzis for his invaluable support of our great club.

I also wish to thank Parthenon Marble, Bob Jane Telecommunications and Southern Motors for their continued support along with all our other sponsors as acknowledged inside. Each and every sponsor of our great club plays a critical role in the continued success of our club and we urge you all to support our sponsors' products and services.

Coach Ange Postecoglou, captain Paul Trimboli and the team should be congratulated for last year's mammoth effort for achieving the ultimate – the Premiership, the Championship, Coach of the Year (Ange Postecoglou) and Players' Player of the Year (Paul Trimboli).

In the off-field activities, we welcome back Peter Filopoulos as General Manager and a big welcome to our new Marketing Manager, Georgia Loupos and wish them every success in their positions.

Once again, we ask all supporters to direct all their energies in supporting the team. We want them to once and for all stop undesirable behaviour such as the incidents involving our supporters at the end of last year's Grand Final. I am sure that most supporters would agree that these incidents take away from all the hard work and, as such, seek your co-operation in improving the club's image. The events that took place at Olympic Park took a little polish off our success last year.

I am delighted to welcome Gippsland Falcons to the Bob Jane Stadium today and wish them every success in 1998/99.

Please enjoy the 1998/99 Ericsson Cup season and I look forward to seeing you regularly at the Bob Jane Stadium.



COACH'S REPORT

Today's kick off to the season also ends our reign as champions. Although we will carry the tag for the rest of the season, my belief is that from today on everyone starts at the same level and so being champions offers no advantages. Of course, this doesn't mean we dismiss last year's achievements as they were magnificent, but we must now ensure that our focus is fixed firmly on the present.

I can tell you that the whole club has worked hard in the off-season to get us ready for today and this season. It's important that you, as supporters, also start by playing your part from today onwards. If you haven't already signed up as a member, try and do so over the next few weeks. We need you to back the club and in return I guarantee you will see great football at Bob Jane Stadium.

History suggests that winning back to back titles is extremely difficult and our own history shows that it takes seven years to reach the top again. All this indicates what a hard and long journey awaits us. We'll need your support, particularly at home, so stick by us through all the ups and downs as it will definitely make our job easier. Remember your support is most needed when things are going against us.

I must admit I am personally looking forward to an exciting season. There seems to be quite a few clubs intent on making the finals this year which will ensure some big games. Today's derby against Gippsland is one of those because I have no doubt Stuart Munro will want his team to make an impression straight away. I know I certainly want us to.



Much ado about the season beginning

YOU can begin to smell the leather of the ball, hear the roar of the crowd and every kick on the park. From Perth to Brisbane and every major city in between, the Ericsson Cup is back to be fought for.

South Melbourne is out to defend its 1997/98 championship crown won in glory over Carlton at Olympic Park earlier this year.

But in its path stand 14 just as committed clubs, including debutant Northern Spirit.

Former Sydney United team-mates Graham Arnold and Robbie Slater are spearheading the new club's campaign - Arnold as coach, Slater on the pitch.

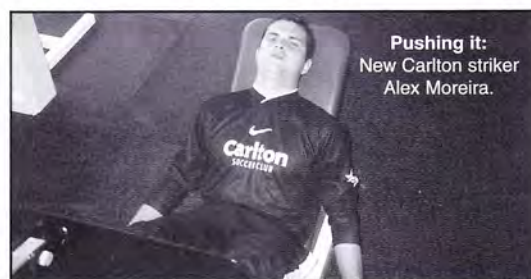
The Spirit have lured some of the hottest Australian talent to North Sydney Oval and are about to show all the fuss about the Spirit is warranted.

Out Carlton way coach Eddie Krncevic is hoping his boys can go one better than last season.

Pint-sized striker Joe Tricarico joins much heralded signing Alex Moreira as some of Carlton's new signings who will join Andy Vlahos in the Carlton front line.

Adelaide City, with Zoran Matic back at the helm, is hoping to renew a championship push.

Damian Mori and Carl Veart will pair up for one of the league's most adroit strike forces.



Pushing it:
New Carlton striker
Alex Moreira.

Picture: ARTHUR BOURINARIS

Other clubs with big ambitions include the rejuvenated Sydney Olympic, under an interesting Branko Culina-Frank Arok partnership and Perth Glory which seeks to make its first finals series. New coach Bernd Strange is the man charged with the task. Other clubs with new coaches are Marconi Fairfield, Melbourne Knights, Brisbane Strikers, Adelaide Sharks, Newcastle Breakers and Gippsland Falcons. Canberra, under Rale Rasic, have ex-Victorians in Vilson Knezevic and Doug Marcina as their new signings. Sydney United's push for the title has brought the highly rated Nathan Day and Walter Ardone to the club.

Fifteen clubs, one dream. Who will be left standing in May?



SOUTH'S SOFTLY SPOKEN SUPERCOACH

Big names and high profiles have helped forge the history of South Melbourne Soccer Club, yet few could boast the impact made by Ange Postecoglou. This dedicated clubman has dedicated his entire career to Middle Park and Bob Jane Stadium over the past 14 years. Greg Blake profiles one of the club's all-time greats.

SOUTH Melbourne has turned forty.

The fortieth anniversary of a great club - a sporting institution in fact - and one boasting a successful and storied history every bit the envy of so many.

And anyone who has supported the club for even four years - let alone forty - will likely be able to reel off a list of names of great players to have graced the blue and white.

The deeds of the all-time South Melbourne greats are legendary and names are passed on through each generation of supporters.

Curiously, one name so often missing from discussions when fans of the blue and white get together is that of current coach Ange Postecoglou.

He wasn't, after all, a great player.

Nor was he the most high-profile skipper.

As a coach he certainly doesn't possess the self-promotional skills of a Frank Arok, Branko Culina or Rale Rasic.

But Ange Postecoglou gets the job done.

And despite a legacy of greatness and success forged back in the 1960's and 1970's, it has been Postecoglou, more than any other individual, who has maintained the club's commitment to excellence since the bar was raised and domestic soccer success was measured on a national basis, rather than on mere regional success, in 1977.

Postecoglou has been the only ever-present in South Melbourne's three national title victories in that period, as a rookie player in 1984, as captain in 1991 and, of course, in 1998 as the senior coach.

He baulks at the all-time great tag.

"It's pretty mind-blowing," Postecoglou says.

"I guess I've just been pretty lucky to be involved in three championships.

"I'm very proud of that record but maybe it has just been the right place at the right time.

"To be honest, I sit back and think just how astounded I am to have been part of it all.

"I mean in the history of the club there have been some fantastic people come through the place and to have achieved what I have, like I said, maybe it was just the right place at the right time.

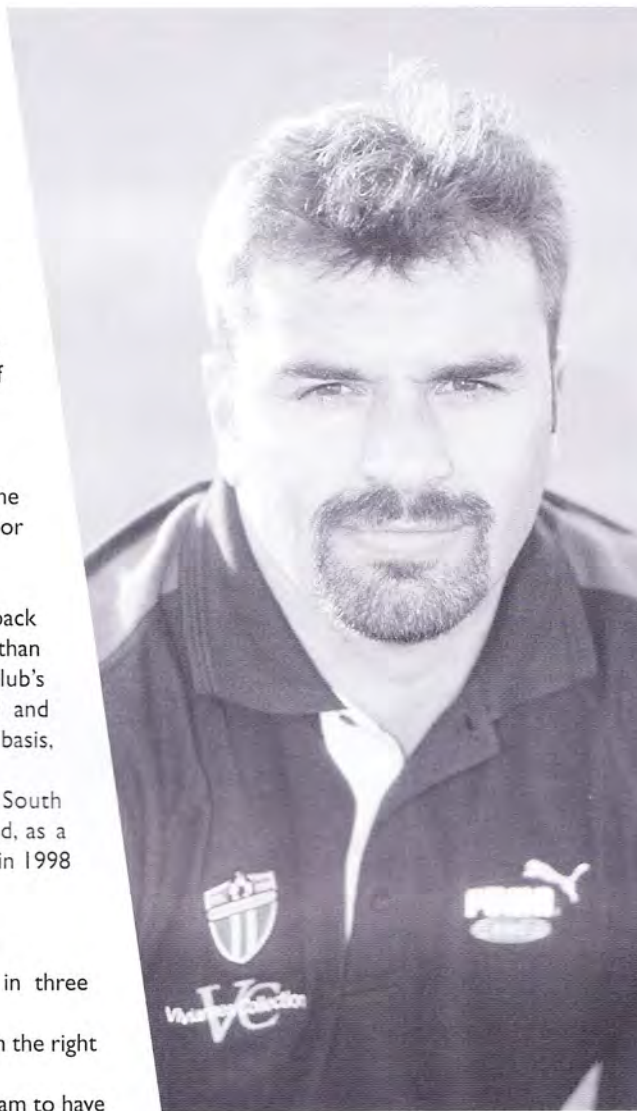
"I look at the new (club) emblem with the three stars (which represent South's three national triumphs) and what they mean to me...it's hard to explain."

Postecoglou is the first to concede that in the context of South Melbourne's history he "wasn't exceptionally talented in any way, shape or form."

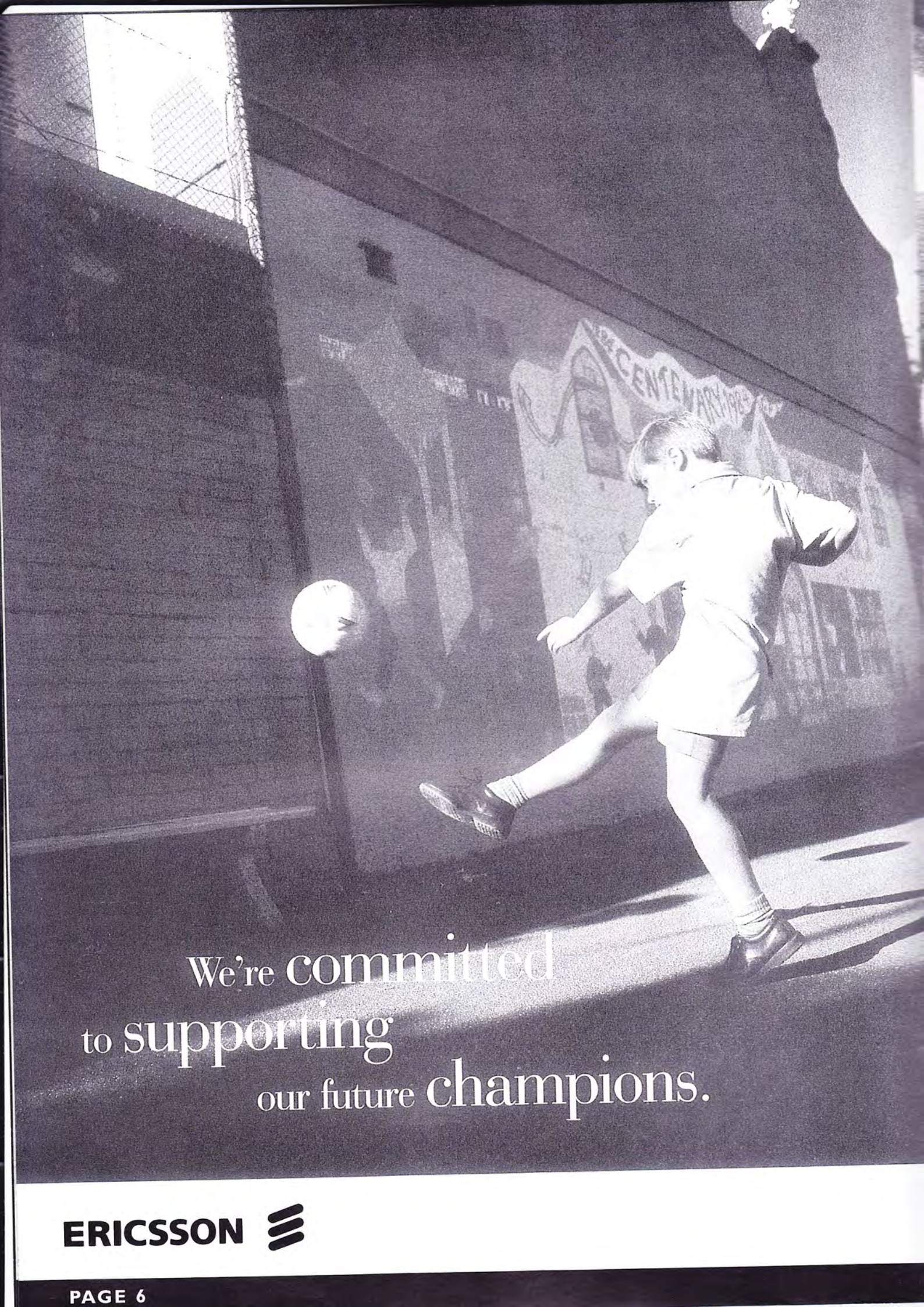
"But I seem to do things for the right reasons - my motivations were always for the right reasons," he explains.

However the results of his efforts are tangible.

Postecoglou landed two titles in his 217 game (27 goals) career - the second as skipper - before he was cut down prematurely by injury. He then proved himself to be a franchise employee by resisting overtures to go elsewhere and coach and remained at the club as Arok's assistant before taking over the senior reins in round 31 of

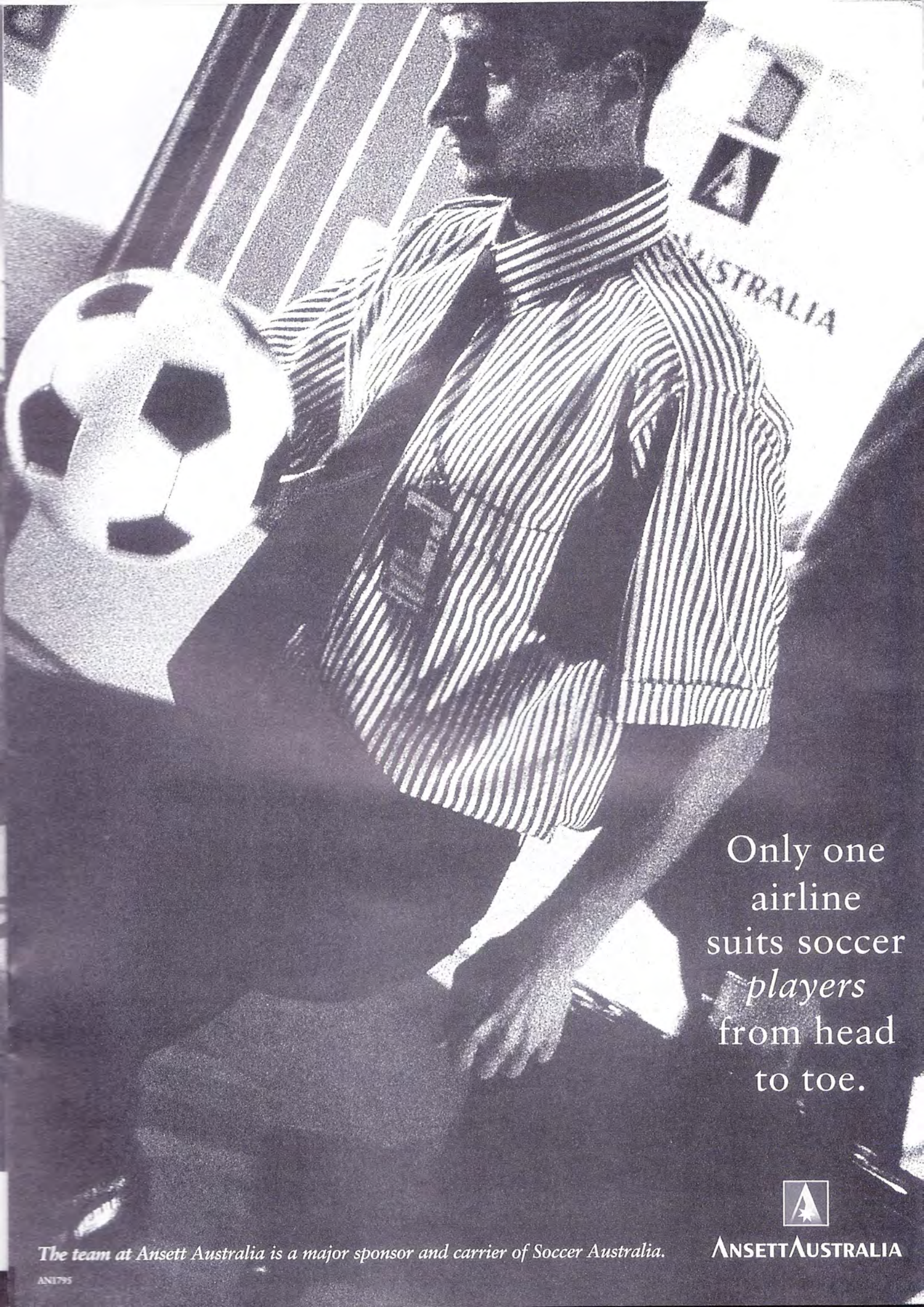


CONTINUED PAGE 15



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RND	DATE	DAY	GAME	H/A	TIME	RND	DATE	DAY	GAME	H/A	TIME
1	11 Oct	Sun	Gippsland Falcons	H	5PM	16	23 Jan	Sat	Gippsland Falcons	A	7PM
2	18 Oct	Sun	Adelaide Sharks	A	8PM	17	26 Jan	Tue	Adelaide Sharks	H	6PM
3	25 Oct	Sun	Newcastle Breakers	H	6PM	18	31 Jan	Sun	Wollongong Wolves	A	6.30PM
4	31 Oct	Sat	Marconi Fairfield	A	7PM	19	7 Feb	Sun	Melbourne Knights	H	6PM
5	8 Nov	Sun	Sydney Olympic	H	6PM	20	12 Feb	Fri	Newcastle Breakers	A	8PM
6	15 Nov	Sun	Perth Glory	A	5PM	21	21 Feb	Sun	Marconi Fairfield	H	6PM
7	22 Nov	Sun	Carlton	H	5PM	22	28 Feb	Sun	Sydney Olympic	A	6PM
8	29 Nov	Sun	Melbourne Knights	A	3PM	23	7 Mar	Sun	GRAND PRIX WEEKEND		
9	6 Dec	Sun	Wollongong Wolves	H	6PM	24	14 Mar	Sun	Carlton	A	5PM
10	13 Dec	Sun	Adelaide City	A	7PM	25	21 Mar	Sun	Adelaide City	H	6PM
11	20 Dec	Sun	Northern Spirit	H	6PM	26	26 Mar	Fri	Northern Spirit	A	7.30PM
12	27 Dec	Sun	Brisbane Strikers	A	7PM	27	4 Apr	Sun	Brisbane Strikers	H	6PM
13	3 Jan	Sun	Sydney United	H	6PM	28	11 Apr	Sun	Sydney United	A	5PM
14	11 Jan	Mon	Canberra Cosmos	A	7PM	29	18 Apr	Sun	Canberra Cosmos	H	6PM
23	TBA		Perth Glory	TBA		30	25 Apr	Sun	BYE	-	-
15	17 Jan	Sun	BYE	-	-						



SOUTH'S SOFTLY SPOKEN SUPERCOACH (continued from page 5)



the 1995/96 season.

In compiling the best record of any coach in the league over 62-game coaching career since, he has dragged the club from also-rans to third in 1996/97 and finally to a long-awaited championship last season.

Along the way becoming the second-youngest coach, at 32, of a title-winning team.

Not that previous championships are anything but a fond memory for him now.

"That first one, well I don't think I really understood it at the time," he reflected.

"It was just a great thrill ride.

"The second one was obviously a bit more special being captain.

"But I probably got the most satisfaction from coaching the team (to success) and seeing people get the feelings I had.

"It was great to see Trimmers (Paul Trimboli) holding the cup aloft.

"But now it's down to business again.

"If we don't win our first game they'll be chucking copies of the match program at me," he laughs.

"It's the first game of the new season and we now cease to be champions.

"It's a level playing field again and tradition suggests that most clubs find it hard to go back-to-back.

"We've got to think ahead.

"My job is to ensure that we have a really competitive squad so if anyone does lose focus the depth will be there to keep pressure on the players.

"As for me, there are always levels to achieve as a coach and that is especially so at a club like South Melbourne.

"Winning a championship doesn't give you a year's grace and as far as I'm concerned if we don't at least make the grand final again, this year will have to be considered a failure."

Today, in this first home game of the year, this club will celebrate a magnificent championship victory.

As we cheer the team on to the paddock for the new season please reserve a special roar for the coach, Ange Postecoglou.

For surely no person better typifies the qualities of this club better than Ange, whose devotion to the cause, passion for the blue and white and determination to succeed must ensure him a very special place in the halls of South Melbourne immortals.

Every one of Ange Postecoglou's victories is one for the good, hard-working battlers of this world.

You don't have to be special to be a champion.

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	Child (Up to 16)	\$ 35	\$
	Junior (Under 12)	FREE	
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I hereby acknowledge and agree to be bound by the terms and conditions of the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the South Melbourne Hellas Soccer Club Ltd.

Signature:





SOUTH MELBOURNE

GOALS	
1 Michael PETKOVIC (GLK)	.....
2 Steve IOSIFIDIS (DEF)	.....
3 Fausto DE AMICIS (DEF)	.....
4 Nick ORLIC (DEF)	.....
5 Con BLATIS (DEF)	.....
6 David CLARKSON (MID)	.....
7 Steve PANOPOULOS (MID)	.....
8 Vaughan COVENY (MID)	.....
9 Paul TRIMBOLI (STK)	.....
10 Michael CURCIJA (STK)	.....
11 John ANASTASIADIS (STK)	.....
12 Tansel BASER (DEF)	.....
13 Adrian CUZZUPE (MID)	.....
14 Jason POLAK (MID)	.....
15 Goran LOZANOVSKI (MID)	.....
16 George GOUTZIOULIS (MID)	.....
17 Jim TSEKINIS (STK)	.....
18 Robert LIPAROTI (DEF)	.....
20 Chris Jones (GLK)	.....
22 Mustafa MUSTAFA (STK)	.....

YEARS IN ERICSSON CUP: 23 HONOURS:

Champions 1984, 1991, 1998
Cup Winners: 1989/90, 1995/96
GAMES RECORD: Steve Blair (338)
GOALS RECORD: Paul Trimboli (89)
RECORD VICTORY: 7-0 v Newcastle Rosebud (1984)
RECORD DEFEAT: 7-0 v Marconi (1992/93)



GIPPSLAND

GOALS	
1 Bojo JEVDJEVIC (GLK)	.....
3 Manny GOTIS (DEF)	.....
5 Jeff HOPKINS (DEF)	.....
7 Brian McNICOL (MID)	.....
8 Clayton BELL (MID)	.....
10 Archie THOMPSON (STK)	.....
11 John HUTCHINSON (MID)	.....
12 Peter DI IORIO (STK)	.....
13 Claudio CANOSA (DEF)	.....
16 Billy MITROULAS (MID)	.....
17 Will HASTIE (MID)	.....
18 Robbie PUCA (MID)	.....
19 Paul BYRNE (MID)	.....
21 Adrian SAVAGE (MID)	.....
Not allocated numbers	.....
Andy VARGAS (MID)	.....
Levent OSMAN (MID)	.....
Michael ANDERSON (DEF)	.....

YEARS IN ERICSSON CUP: 7

HONOURS: Finalists (1994/95)
GAMES RECORD: Claudio Canosa (113)
GOALS RECORD: John Markovski (20)
RECORD VICTORY: 5-1 v Brisbane (1994/95)
5-1 v Newcastle (1997/98)
RECORD DEFEAT: 5-0 v Canberra (1995/96)
5-0 v Adelaide City (1995/96)

ERICSSON CUP NOTICE

Entry inside the perimeter fence of the playing area is prohibited at all times and offenders will be prosecuted. All spectators are requested to vacate the ground within 15 minutes of the end of the final game. Police may be requested to remove any unauthorised persons who remain after the stipulated time. The setting alight of, or the igniting or discharging of any type of object, including fireworks, signal or smoke flares, is strictly prohibited.

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Falcons ready for challenge

MANY people have already written Gippsland off as a finals contender for 1998/99 but new Falcons coach Stuart Munro has warned that the Falcons will be a surprise packet. The Gippsland Falcons rounded off their pre-season preparations in Adelaide last week and are ready for their bid to make the finals.

"For third, fourth, fifth or sixth (positions) I don't see why we should be different to anyone else," Munro said.

"I'll be confident we'll give it as good a shot as anyone else will."

The Falcons have signed former Crystal Palace defender Jeff Hopkins and Robbie Puca, an 18-year-

old West Australian Munro is expecting much from. Munro is happy to be meeting the premiers in the opening round of the season.

"It's a wonderful time to get them. You never know what can happen in the opening round of the season," Munro said.

"We'll really be the underdogs and I know Ange (Postecoglou) will be a little nervous about that." Exciting prospect Archie Thompson is hoping for more opportunities this season, while games record holder Claudio Canosa is back at La Trobe Valley for another season.

- NICHOLAS TZAFERIS



1998-99 SENIOR SQUAD TEAM PROFILES



PAUL TRIMBOLI

Position: Striker
Born: 25.2.69
Height: 173cm
Weight: 72kg
NSL games: 318
Last Club: Sunshine GC
Internationals: Socceroo
Nickname: Trimmers
Shirt Number: 9



FAUSTO DE AMICIS

Position: Defender
Born: 26.06.68
Height: 170cm
Weight: 65kg
NSL games: 171
Last Club: Melbourne Knights
Internationals: Socceroo
Nickname: -
Shirt Number: 3



DAVID CLARKSON

Position: Midfielder
Born: 01.02.68
Height: 176cm
Weight: 70kg
NSL games: 138
Last Club: Happy Valley (HK)
Internationals: -
Nickname: Clarky
Shirt Number: 6



STEVE PANOPOULOS

Position: Midfielder
Born: 23.6.75
Height: 169cm
Weight: 68kg
NSL games: 108
Last Club: (Oakleigh) VIS
Internationals: -
Nickname: Pana
Shirt Number: 7



MICHAEL CURCIJA

Position: Striker
Born: 27.06.77
Height: 183cm
Weight: 80kg
NSL games: 62
Last Club: AIS
Internationals: Olyroo
Nickname: Cij
Shirt Number: 10



TANSEL BASER

Position: Defender
Born: 17.04.78
Height: 190cm
Weight: 75kg
NSL games: 50
Last Club: Broadmeadows
Internationals: Olyroo
Nickname: -
Shirt Number: 12



ROBERT LIPAROTI

Position: Defender
Born: 2.04.78
Height: 193cm
Weight: 89kg
NSL games: 8
Last Club: Bulleen
Internationals: -
Nickname: Lipa
Shirt Number: 18



CON BLATSIS

Position: Defender
Born: 06.07.77
Height: 192cm
Weight: 86kg
NSL games: 65
Last Club: AIS
Internationals: Olyroo
Nickname: Blats
Shirt Number: 5



MUSTAFA MUSTAFA

Position: Striker
Born: 22.08.79
Height: 178cm
Weight: 69kg
NSL games: -
Last Club: VIS (Melton Reds)
Internationals: -
Nickname: Mus
Shirt Number: 22



GORAN LOZANOVSKI

Position: Midfielder
Born: 11.01.74
Height: 180cm
Weight: 88kg
NSL games: 143
Last Club: Collingwood
Internationals: Socceroo
Nickname: Loza
Shirt Number: 15



ADRIAN CUZZUPE

Position: Midfielder
Born: 06.08.80
Height: 178cm
Weight: 72kg
NSL games: -
Last Club: Green Gully
Internationals: -
Nickname: -
Shirt Number: 13



CHRIS JONES

Position: Goalkeeper
Born: 10.07.75
Height: 6'2"
Weight: 88kg
NSL games: 1
Last Club: Karingal United
Internationals: -
Nickname: Jonesy
Shirt Number: 20



NICK ORLIC

Position: Defender
Born: 06.08.70
Height: 6'3"
Weight: 90kg
NSL game: 121
Last Club: UTS Olympic
Internationals: -
Nickname: Niko
Shirt Number: 4



VAUGHAN COVENY

Position: Striker
Born: 13.12.71
Height: 6'2"
Weight: 84kg
NSL games: 149
Last Club: Wollongong
Internationals: New Zealand
Nickname: Kiwi
Shirt Number: 8



JIM TSEKINIS

Position: Striker
Born: 08.05.75
Height: 177cm
Weight: 77kg
NSL games: -
Last Club: Adelaide Sharks
Internationals: Young Socceroo
Nickname: -
Shirt Number: 17



GEORGE GOUTZIOULIS

Position: Midfielder
Born: 18.01.78
Height: 180cm
Weight: 74kg
NSL game: 18
Last Club: Bentleigh Greens
Internationals: -
Nickname: Shaggy
Shirt Number: 16



ANGE POSTECOGLU

Manager/Coach



MICHAEL PETKOVIC

Position: Goalkeeper
Born: 16.07.76
Height: 6'3"
Weight: 80kg
NSL games: 74
Last Club: Perth Kangaroos
Internationals: Socceroo
Nickname: Petka
Shirt Number: 1



STEVE IOSIFIDIS

Position: Defender
Born: 28.12.73
Height: 184cm
Weight: 75kg
NSL games: 60
Last Club: Heidelberg UTD
Internationals: -
Nickname: Yosa
Shirt Number: 2



CARL HALFORD

Assistant Coach



JOHN ANASTASIADIS

Position: Striker
Born: 13.08.68
Height: 179cm
Weight: 78kg
NSL games: 49
Last Club: PAOK (Greece)
Internationals: Young Socceroo
Nickname: -
Shirt Number: 11



JASON POLAK

Position: Midfielder
Born: 09.01.68
Height: 5'11"
Weight: 80kg
NSL games: 188
Last Club: Brisbane
Internationals: Socceroo
Nickname: Jay
Shirt Number: 14



LEANDRO ZARKO

Assistant Coach

COACHING STAFF 1998/99



LEADER ON HOLD

South Melbourne midfielder Steve Panopoulos has recently been made deputy vice-captain of the club. He mirrors his excitement to Nicholas Tzaferis

SOUTH Melbourne coach Ange Postecoglou has always wanted to bring the tradition back to South Melbourne.

The sort of tradition that has made clubs like Liverpool and Real Madrid the benchmarks of sport on the globe.

Part of Postecoglou's tradition theme is to reward players who deserve to be rewarded. It's why Steve Panopoulos was recently announced as deputy vice-captain behind Paul Trimboli and Fausto De Amicis. Panopoulos, 23, is the longest serving South Melbourne player after skipper Paul Trimboli.

He has won a championship and nailed a place in the centre of the park where his tenacity and endurance is best utilised. He is as South Melbourne as you can get.

"It (the deputy vice-captaincy) is a sign of how long I've been here and what I've achieved," Panopoulos says.

"Ange had other choices, including some older players, but I've been the second longest serving player here. He wanted to reward me."

Panopoulos recalls that when Postecoglou told him of receiving the deputy vice-captaincy he could not utter a word from his surprise.

"I was absolutely rapt when he first told me. I froze and didn't know what to say to him," Panopoulos says.

"I know Ange is big on tradition and he doesn't give things away easily."

Panopoulos captained the side in the 2-0 victory over the Melbourne Knights in the Laurie Schwab memorial game last month - his first taste of what could lay ahead.



"It's

a huge honour for me.

From a young kid watching every game I always wanted to play for South Melbourne. To captain the team would be a dream," Panopoulos says.

The midfielder has sweated hard in the off-season to prepare himself for South Melbourne's back-to-back championship campaign.

It was the first time in his career that Panopoulos trained on his own before joining his team-mates for the club's official pre-season campaign.

"I've probably had the best preparation I have ever had. I feel really good and I'm as fit as I've ever been," he says.

"I think we've been working really hard and it's coming together now."

Fans will have their chance to see how much it has come together this afternoon.

Few will work harder than Panopoulos to make an impression.

ERICSSON CUP FIXTURES

ROUND ONE

Perth Glory v Adelaide City
Wollongong Wolves v Carlton SC
Adelaide Sharks v Canberra Cosmos
Newcastle Breakers v Sydney United
South Melbourne v Gippsland Falcons
Sydney Olympic v Northern Spirit
Marconi Fairfield v Brisbane Strikers
Melbourne Knights Bye

Northern Spirit v Perth Glory
Brisbane Strikers v Sydney Olympic
Sydney United v Marconi Fairfield
Wollongong Wolves v Melbourne Knights
Adelaide Sharks v South Melbourne
Gippsland Falcons Bye

ROUND TWO

Adelaide City v Carlton SC
Canberra Cosmos v Newcastle Breakers

NEXT SOUTH MELBOURNE HOME GAME:

ROUND 3 (Sunday October 25, 1998)
v Newcastle Breakers (6pm)



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